116. Desirability of making provision for the accommodation of in-patients in the Punalur Dispensary.

Mr. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Pathanapuram taluk) complained of want of sufficient accommodation in the Punalur Dispensary for the treatment of in-patients. In practice no in-patients were admitted and treated. Punalur was being resorted to by the sick coolies who were sent away from the neighbouring Estates and none of them was admitted as in-patents. The Member requested that necessary funds be provided for the treatment of in-patients.

Dewan's reply.—In the Dispensary there was provision for 8 beds for in-patients. Orders will be issued for the entire sum allotted for the purpose being spent for in-patients.

117. Need for opening a dispensary at Pathanamthitta.

Mr. D. Kumaran Poti (Member, Pathanamthitta taluk) said that the Pathanamthitta possessed a Taluk Cutcherry, Police Station, Sub-Registry Office, and English and Vernacular Schools, and that the want of a dispensary was greatly felt. There were about 15,000 people in all the adjoining villages, most of whom being poor illiterate ryots. For want of easy means of communication, Konni and Kozhencherry, where there were two dispensaries, were not accessible to the people and the poor ryots very often found themselves unable to get the services of medical officers in serious cases of illness. The services of midwives were also not available unless they spent a large amount for the purpose. Before the re-organisation of the Medical Department there was a bi-weekly dispensary at Pathanamthitta, but it was subsequently discontinued. He, therefore, prayed for the establishment of a dispensary at Pathanamthitta.

Dewan's reply.—The matter is under correspondence with the Durbar Physician and the Dewan Peishkar, Quilon.

118. Need for converting the local Dispensary into a Hospital.

Mr. N. Siddick Sait (Member, T. I. C., Kayenkulam) said that Kayankulam was a great trading centre and was growing in importance. The place, being low and sandy, was naturally unhealthy. The greater portion of the town was surrounded by the salt water lake. There was scarcity of good drinking water in the town and epidemic diseases frequently visited the place. The nearest hospital was at Mavelikara and great difficulty was experienced in conducting examination of medico-legal cases. At present there was only a dispensary at Kayankulam and the number of patients treated there was more than 10,000 a year. The necessity for a well-equipped hospital was a sorely felt want. He, therefore, requested that the local dispensary might be converted into a hospital.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-15 P. M.

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